

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER KATHLEEN Q. ABERNATHY**

Re: Review of the Emergency Alert System, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

It is essential that the American public has access to emergency information in times of crisis. The Emergency Alert System (“EAS”) provides a means for the President and national, state and local authorities to directly relay emergency information to the public regarding such matters as national security and preparedness, natural disasters, and missing children alerts. As new communications technologies develop and become integrated into our society, it is important that we adapt our rules to ensure that the purposes of the EAS are being fulfilled. Today, we take an important step toward improving this critical public safety tool by seeking comment on how we can keep up with the changing times, technologies, and security issues.

Additionally, I am very pleased that this NPRM recognizes the Commission’s continued commitment to ensuring that persons with disabilities and speakers of other languages have equal access to public warnings. It is critical that we keep these communities in mind, and recognize the particular benefits that digital and other technologies may provide, as we move forward to improve our emergency alert system.

I look forward to working with DHS, FEMA, NOAA, and NWS to create a system that effectively and efficiently utilizes modern technology to successfully keep the American public apprised of vital safety information.